and Picton on the South Island – the track snakes through the Waiapara Valley, Marlborough vineyards, past snow-capped summits, and beside rugged east coast beaches. And while the hop takes five hours, many passengers break the trip with a stay in Kaikoura to go whale watching, with tours operating year-round.

6. The Bergen Railway
The seven-hour journey on the Bergen Railway carries travellers between Oslo and Bergen, crossing Norway from the capital to the west coast over Hardangervidda, which is one of Europe’s highest mountain plateaus, with the option to breaking the trip in Myrdal and riding 20km on the Flam Railway to Aurlandsfjord.

7. Eastern & Oriental Express
The Eastern & Oriental Express drifts between Bangkok and Singapore – it’s a three-night ride south and a two-night trip north – with the itinerary that takes in three South-East Asian countries. It includes stops to explore Penang in Malaysia and Thailand’s River Kwai and fine-dining experiences in vintage restaurant cars.

8. Rocky Mountaineer
The Rocky Mountaineer carries two million passengers every year and travellers are offered five rail routes around the Canadian provinces of British Columbia and Alberta, with the Journey through the Clouds an overnight itinerary that leaves Vancouver after dinner and arrives in Jasper the following afternoon.

9. Indian Pacific
Australia’s Indian Pacific dashes across the continent, ferrying passengers 4,152km between Perth and Sydney on a passage that takes four days, with guests enjoying fine food and wine as they peer at a landscape that’s constantly changing between the Blue Mountains and Nullarbor Plain.

10. Royal Scotsman
Spend five days and four nights on the Royal Scotsman completing a grand loop of Scotland – the journey starts and finishes in Edinburgh and crosses the heart of the country as well as visiting destinations on the east, north and west coasts – with stops to explore lochs, national parks, and castles. The five-star train is restricted to a maximum of 36 passengers.